



# MEDINA TREE CODE UPDATE

## Did you know?

For many years, Medina has recognized the value our trees play in the overall quality of living in the City. Our tree code policy calls for preserving evergreen trees and six other native species of deciduous trees, and is written to act as deterrent to removing old growth and larger trees. Trees that are 20 inches in diameter and greater are the focus of our regulations but other trees down to 10 inches in diameter are also affected if the property they are on is being developed.

Medina's tree code provisions have achieved their original intended purpose. Property owners not pursuing redevelopment often choose to keep their significant trees rather than mitigate for their removal. Redevelopment regularly considers preserving mature evergreen trees to limit their requirements for replanting.

**Did you know** Medina's tree code exempts trees that died from natural causes, trees rated hazard by the city arborist, and trees less than 36-inch diameter located in a building footprints?

[Click Here for Medina's Current Tree Code](#)

## Timeline to Medina's Tree Code:

1972	Tree and vegetation requirements in public rights-of-way adopted
1982	Required permits for removing trees 4-inch diameter and larger in the right-of-way
1985	Added procedural requirements for permits
1988	Minor housekeeping amendments
1990	Expanded tree preservation requirements to private property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees 8 and 10-inch diameter and greater were significant</li> <li>• One-to-one replacement inches for mitigation</li> <li>• Landscape requirements for public streets</li> <li>• Established suitable tree species list</li> </ul>
1994	Tree regulations limited to newly developed properties and

## Benefit of Trees

Trees provide social, environmental, and economic benefits. Social benefits include a sense of serenity from viewing groves of trees and privacy. Trees offer many environmental benefits including wind protection, improved air quality, and storm water runoff protection. Economic benefits typically include increased property values associated with landscaping and mature trees.

For more information on the benefits of trees, follow the links below:

- <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/index.cfm>
- <http://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/benefitsoftrees.aspx>
- <http://www.americanforests.org/what-we-do/what-we-do-urban-forests/>
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>
- [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/researchscience/topics/urbanforestry/pages/rp\\_urban\\_commandurbanforestry.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/researchscience/topics/urbanforestry/pages/rp_urban_commandurbanforestry.aspx)

	modified replacement requirements
1995	Minor amendment to tree replacement requirements
1997	Repealed exemption for utilities
2000	Significant amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included redeveloped properties</li> <li>• Trees 4-inch diameter and greater were significant</li> <li>• Required landscaping in the street plus the 15 feet adjacent in the front yard</li> <li>• Hazard trees required mitigation</li> <li>• Two-for-one replacement inches for mitigation</li> </ul>
2003	Consolidated all regulations relating to trees and vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exempted trees less than 36-inch diameter in building footprint</li> <li>• Trees 6 inches diameter on public property and 24 inches diameter on private property and greater were significant</li> <li>• Different levels of mitigation based on tree size</li> <li>• Added relief from mitigation requirements for small lots</li> <li>• Exempted hazard trees from mitigation requirements</li> </ul>
2006	Additional amendments to the tree code: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted hazard rating scale</li> <li>• Limited significant trees to certain species</li> <li>• Trees 20 inches diameter were defined significant, 10 inches diameter if the property was under development</li> <li>• Removed some landscaping requirements</li> <li>• Connected payment ratio for Medina Tree Fund to the size of the tree</li> </ul>
2014	Phase One Tree Code Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved to MMC Chapter 20.52 and reformatted</li> <li>• Exempted trees that died from natural causes</li> <li>• Exempted hazard tree from permit requirements</li> </ul>

## Challenges Associated with Trees

Trees are living organisms that typically grow large and live a long time in the Pacific Northwest. Douglas fir trees can live 500 years or more and Western red cedar trees can live 800 years or more. While only a small number of trees with the potential to fall and hit someone actually do, there is no such thing as a completely “safe” tree. A certain amount of “risk” is inherent with any tree. Additionally, as a tree matures and grows, so does its maintenance expense. Caring for aging or sick trees can be costly and removing a large mature tree that is weak can be expensive.

For more information on risks associated with trees, please follow the links below:

- <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/uf/utrmml/>
- <http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/resources/TreeRisk.pdf>
- <http://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/treehazards.aspx>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added mitigation requirements for non-significant trees in rights-of-way</li><li>• Clarified application of TRACE to hazard tree ratings</li><li>• Clarified methodology of applying tree code provisions</li><li>• Expanded replacement tree credit to include qualifying trees planted within the last two years</li></ul> |
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## PUBLIC OUTREACH

The City Council is considering possible changes to the Medina Tree Code this year. Before they do, we want to hear from you as to whether or not you feel our Tree Code is still on track for how we manage trees.



### How to be involved:

- **COMPLETE A QUESTIONNAIRE.** A short community questionnaire is available to help us understand what is important to you about the tree code. You may complete the questionnaire online, or by downloading and completing a .pdf form, or, by visiting city hall and attending one of the workshops or Medina Days events.

[Click here for the questionnaire \(online form\)](#)

[Click here for the questionnaire in .pdf form](#)

If you download the .pdf form, after completing it, please mail it to us or drop it off at City Hall during business hours. If your opinion changes during the process, please feel free to complete another questionnaire and send it to us.

- **ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE/ WORKSHOP.** The first open house/workshop is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 15, 2014** at City Hall. It will run between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm (click [here](#) for the post card notification). Another workshop is tentatively scheduled for late August/early September. Please visit the [website](#) for updates on the schedule for additional workshops.
- **VISIT OUR BOOTH AT MEDINA DAYS.** We will be setting up a public information booth at the Medina Days Carnival. Please visit us to learn more about the Medina Tree Code and let us know your ideas.
- **CITY COUNCIL HEARINGS.** Your input will help shape how the city council considers possible changes to the tree code later this year. A joint meeting with the Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for late September and public hearings will be held regarding any proposed amendments to the Medina Tree Code.

Please visit our [website](#) or [sign-up for our e-notice program](#) to receive the latest meeting and hearing dates.



### **City Hall Address and Staff Contact:**

- Medina City Hall is located at 501 Evergreen Point Road, Medina, WA 98039.
- Staff Contact: [Robert Grumbach, AICP](#), Development Services Director (425) 233-6416.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES: Please link on the following for information on managing health urban forests:

- <http://www.treesaregood.org/home.aspx>
- <http://ufmptoolkit.com/>
- <http://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/urbanforests/urban-forests-tools-resources/urban-forest-assessments-resource-guide/urban-forest-management/>

MEDINA, WA. IS DESIGNATED A “**TREE CITY USA**” BY THE NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION



[TREE COMMITTEE'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT TREE CODE](#)

PHASE ONE TREE CODE UPDATE DOCUMENTS: COMING SOON.